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The Daily Mississippian

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SUMMERTIME IN THE GROVE

P. 4



FRESHMAN POLE VAULTER ENDS FIRST SEASON

P. 8



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THE DAILY

# MISSISSIPPIAN

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2012 | Vol. 100, No. 310

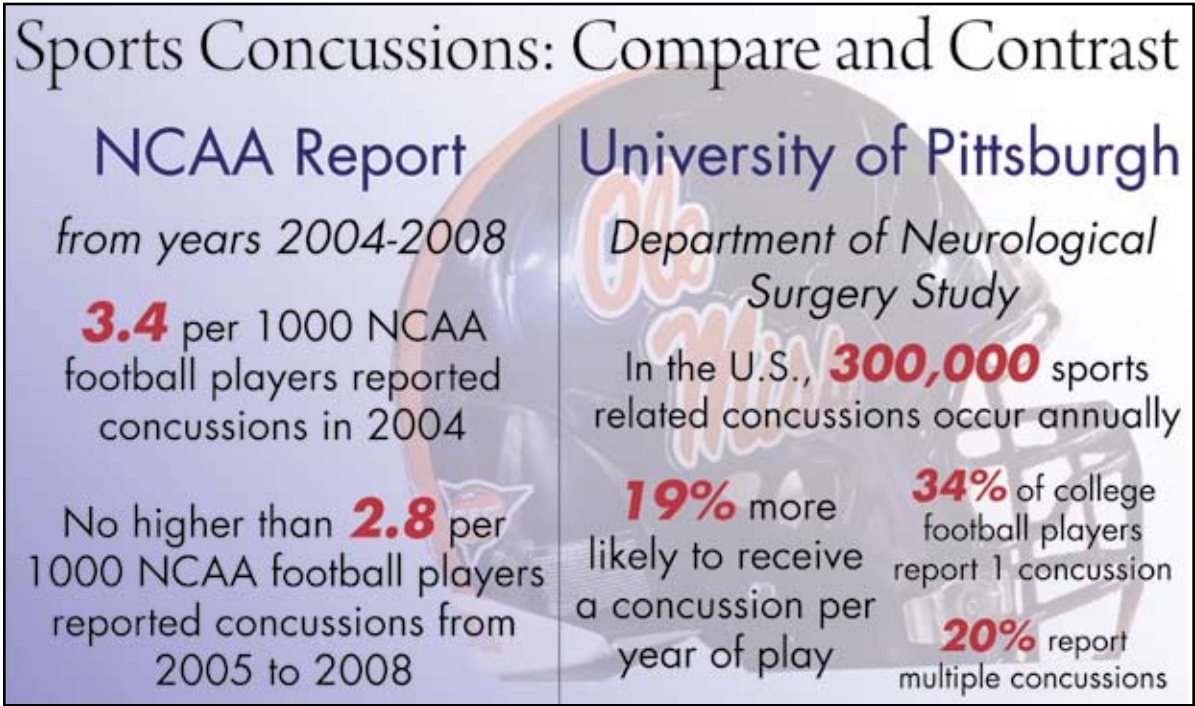
THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911

## CHANCELLOR JONES TO HEAD SEC CONCUSSION STUDY

The Southeastern Conference recently announced that they will put together a team to research the effects of concussions in sports. The group will be led by Ole Miss' Chancellor Dan Jones.

BY JAKE THOMPSON  
jcthomps@go.olemiss.edu

The Southeastern Conference announced earlier this month that it will assemble a research group to study the effects of head injuries in college sports. Ole Miss will play a major role in the process as Chancellor Dan Jones will chair the research group. “(SEC Commissioner Mike Slive) and I talk on a regular basis,” Jones said. “So in one of our regular conversations he told me we (the SEC) were working toward establishing a working group on concussion and head injuries and talked to me about the potential for leading that and asked me to do it, and I was honored to be asked to do it and it’s a privilege to do it.” While there has never been a real study done by any other conferences in college sports, the SEC felt a duty to step up and lead the charge. “When issues become active national issues, the Southeastern Conference is a leader in every way in col-



GRAPHIC BY CAIN MADDEN | The Daily Mississippian

lege sports,” Jones said. “Our commissioner (Slive), in association with the presidents and chancellors, agreed that this was the right time for us to spend some time focused on this.” The group will be charged with researching and evaluating sports-related concus-

sions as it relates to the SEC. Jones said he wants to make very clear the focus of the research group. “This working group is going to focus on fact finding,” he said of the group’s mission. “We’re charged with bringing information back to the league leadership. Af-

ter we’ve given our report, then a decision will be made about whether there will be a change in policy.” The research group will include Jones, a physician, two specialists who are experts in the head trauma field who are associated with SEC medical schools, two team doctors

from SEC institutions and two athletic trainers from SEC schools. At this time, no other positions have been filled besides Jones. Jones’ background is in medicine, but admittedly he is not well versed when it comes to head trauma. He has been reading and informing himself in preparation to lead this group. “Chancellor Jones being a medical doctor; he’s, obviously got experience in the medical background,” Athletics Director Ross Bjork said at the recent SEC meetings which took place this past month in Destin, Fla. “I think that’s where the SEC saw value in him as a leader in this role.” Concussions have become a national headline in sports in recent years, notably in the NFL where there are over 1,000 former players suing the league. Those players are claiming not enough was done to educate them on the risks of concussions and that

See JONES, PAGE 7

## Brandi LaBanc named new Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Brandi Labanc, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Northern Illinois University, was recently selected as the new Vice Chancellor for Student affairs at Ole Miss.

BY HOUSTON BROCK  
thedmnews@gmail.com

Brandi LaBanc is now the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs after a committee of 14 university members concluded their national search. LaBanc will step into her role officially on July 16. Originally from Ohio, LaBanc studied accounting at the University of Akron. “I worked for a short period of time as an accountant,” LaBanc said. “I didn’t enjoy that life.” With the help of her Greek advisor, she started looking

into Higher Education as a career path. Her positive experience as a student in Akron was reason enough for her to work with students full-time. Her first job involving students and higher education was as a Fraternity Advisor at Arizona State University. Her goal to be in a significant leadership role could only be achieved by diversifying her portfolio, however. She then accepted jobs at various universities, including UNC-Wilmington as a Greek and Conduct advisor, Baldwin-



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF THE PROVOST  
New Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs  
Brandi Hephner LaBanc

See LABANC, PAGE 4

## Local school lunch prices rise

Oxford and Lafayette lunch prices are set to increase in the fall, in part to accommodate the high cost of healthy eating.

BY ALEX LOWE  
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Good nutrition does not come cheap. Students at Oxford and Lafayette County schools will experience this first hand when meal prices increase by 25 cents this fall. Oxford Superintendent Brian Harvey said he is not worried that the rise in costs will deter families from buying school lunches. “When you talk about paying \$2.25 for a lunch, that’s still a pretty good deal,” Harvey said. “You can’t eat for that anywhere else.” The National School Lunch Program allows schools to

get money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for each meal served. In return for this, the schools must adhere to federal nutrition standards and offer free or reduced priced lunches to students who qualify. The reimbursement is \$2.77 for free lunches and \$2.37 for reduced price lunches. The Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 authorizes funding and sets the policy for the National School Lunch Program. Under the requirements of this act, the area schools were not meeting the required percentage between amount charged and amount

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COLUMN

Disrupting ‘Mad Men’ should be a crime



BY BRITTANY SHARKEY  
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Dish Network subscribers watching the twisty murder mystery *The Killing* on AMC a few weeks ago got quite a surprise midway through the show’s penultimate episode. It wasn’t the long-awaited reveal of Rosie Larsen’s murderer, but rather it was the channel going dark. Well more accurately, Dish switched the network’s channel abruptly during a broadcast from the centrally-located channel 130 to the totally obscure 9609 or 9610.

This wasn’t a glitch or the work of an errant programmer because that would be a plausible explanation. AMC’s channel shifting is the result of a long-standing lawsuit between the network and the cable provider. Such a harsh action

must be necessitated by a serious lawsuit, right? Nope, in fact it’s a lawsuit about Dish refusing to carry a new kind of high definition channel produced by AMC about four years ago.

This matter is set to go to trial in September. However, the current contract between AMC and Dish is set to expire at the end of this month. Barring an eleventh hour settlement, that seems about as likely as peace in the middle east. Dish will drop the entire AMC family of channels beginning June 30. Those networks, including AMC, IFC, Sundance and WeTV will remain dropped until some sort of legal conclusion is reached.

For anyone watching AMC after the channel switch, the network ran commercials and scrolling messages on the bottom of the screen constantly telling Dish subscribers to email or call Dish. In the interest of full disclosure, this columnist is both a Dish subscriber and ardent AMC fan who may or may not have dashed off a mis- sive to Dish, asking them to

keep AMC around.

Not one to take anything lying down, Dish released several statements the day after the pleading commercials began airing saying that both the move and eventual dropping of the channels were not related to the pending lawsuit but rather with the expiration of the contract with AMC. AMC was just asking for too much money when not enough Dish subscribers actually watch those channels. That sounds like the modern day corporate equivalent of being picked last for dodge ball.

Normally the purveyor of high-brow, award-winning fare like *Mad Men*, *Breaking Bad* and *The Walking Dead*, AMC has now provided its viewing public with sniping, backbiting and spats more worthy of the *Jersey Shore* or a *Real Housewives* franchise.

For those of you still following these trivial machinations, this is the equivalent of a playground spat between two incredibly successful entertain-

ment companies. In between all of this backbiting, squab- bling and cheap shots coming from both sides, there is only one true loser, the consumer. Sure, both companies have probably indelibly tarnished their reputations, but Dish has the market share and AMC has the awards cache to keep on keeping on rather successfully. It is the consumer with limited options that has little choice but to be an unwitting pawn in this ridiculous tiff. These companies would do well to remember that the consumer is their ultimate boss and without subscribers and viewers, they would cease to exist. The function of these companies is to provide entertain- ment, and while the feud has certainly been entertaining, all this consumer really wants is to watch *Mad Men* and *The Walking Dead* in peace.

*Brittany Sharkey is a second-year law student from Oceanside, Calif. She graduated from NYU in 2010 with a degree in politics. Follow her on Twitter @brittanys Sharkey.*

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MISSISSIPPIAN

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Third party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name with- held” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Student submissions must include grade classifica- tion and major. All submissions must be turned in at least three days in advance of date of desired publication.



MISSISSIPPI  
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER



COLUMN

# To drink or not to drink

BY ANNA RUSH  
akrush1@gmail.com

In recent weeks the city of Brandon has been discussing liquor sales within the city. There has been strong opposition to allowing liquor sales in the past. However, with the surrounding cities of Pearl and Flowood voting on liquor sales in recent years, those in favor of the liquor sales are gaining ground both in numbers and in the strength of their argument.

The Brandon area is arguably part of the more conservative portion of the state. The opposition against the sale of liquor is led primarily by Baptist pastors

and other conservative community leaders. The opposition ranges from being against alcohol in its entirety for moral reasons to just being against the abuse of alcohol. Some feel that allowing liquor sales will add fuel to the fire for those who struggle with alcohol abuse. They feel that liquor, especially, is a root-of-evil, so to speak, and that it has no positive attributes. They see a correlation between the sale of liquor and DUIs, domestic violence and poor decisions. Proponents of liquor sales say that cities, such as Pearl, have not seen increases in such things since allowing liquor sales.

Oxford, home to one of the top party schools in the nation, is no stranger to the debate over the sale of alcohol. The City of Oxford has many laws restricting alcohol sales. According to Oxford City Ordinance section 14-44, you may not sell alcohol “Monday through Saturday between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 7:00 a.m. the following morning, and on Sundays or such other times as the mayor and (Board of Aldermen) may designate with the approval of the state tax commission.”

Also, you may not sell cold beer or sell alcohol within 400 feet of a church, kindergarten or funeral home. Section 14-88 of

the City Ordinance mandates that one must have a permit to obtain a keg. To qualify for a permit you must meet a somewhat lengthy list of requirements.

Oxford and Brandon are just a two examples of cities and towns where the sale and consumption is legally at issue. While statistics regarding the revenue gained by alcohol sales versus revenue lost by alcohol related crimes are thrown about, the heart of the issue really lies in morality. The argument often lies in whether it is fundamentally right or wrong to consume alcohol, and by default to sell it.

Does having liquor stores

or Sunday alcohol sales break down the moral fiber of the community or degrade the aesthetic appeal of the town? Does selling a cold beer lead down a slippery slope to a town full of alcoholics? Should we enter the debate with a strictly financial cost-benefit approach? Or is something to be said for considering the morality of the issue and the effects of such on the community? Food, or drink, for thought.

*Anna Rush is a second-year law student from Hattiesburg. She graduated from Mississippi State University in 2011. Follow her on Twitter @annakrush.*

COLUMN

# The importance of being a father



BY MEGAN MASSEY  
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Being a parent is an important job that comes with heavy responsibilities. I don’t think anyone would argue that parenting and raising kids is easy. Even beyond that, not many parents would claim to be perfectly correct either. Despite what the 3-year-old versions of ourselves thought, our parents are not superheroes nor are they perfect. They’re just as

human as we are. They make mistakes, too.

That being said, it is still important that parents are present in their children’s lives. Our parents are where we are supposed to first encounter love and nurturing. We are completely dependent upon them for the first few years of our lives and the way they interact with us during those years is crucial.

This past Sunday was Father’s Day, potentially one of the most awkward holidays. It’s awkward because between people whose fathers have passed away and children who live in divorced homes or single-parent homes, there are a number of people

who have no father and are reminded of it annually on that day. What Valentine’s day is to many single people, Father’s Day is to fatherless children everywhere.

And while that’s enough to make anyone sad, the effects of living in a home without a father have the potential to be even more detrimental than that. The National Fatherhood Initiative is a non-profit organization that seeks “to improve the well-being of children by increasing the proportion of children growing up with involved, responsible, and committed fathers.” On their website, they cite a number of studies and statistics about the effects of

fatherless households on children’s health and behavior.

In 2002, the Department of Justice did a survey of 7,000 inmates. 39 percent of inmates surveyed were raised in mother-only households, and a fifth of those surveyed had a father in prison or in jail at some point in their lives. Another study was conducted of 13,986 women in prison. Of these women, half grew up without their father.

Inmates were not the only ones affected by the lack of a father figure. Teens studied in the U.S. and New Zealand that grew up without fathers were twice as likely to be involved in early sexual activity, and the teenage girls were 7 times more

likely to become pregnant as an adolescent.

Fatherless children are twice as likely to drop out of school.

It’s so important for fathers to be involved in their children’s lives. Not many people debate the importance of a mother, but sometimes fathers are not focused on as much. Children with present fathers are statistically more likely to succeed and become a functional adult. It’s not impossible for a fatherless child to succeed, but the odds are stacked against him or her from the beginning.

*Megan Massey is a religious studies senior from Mount Olive. Follow her on Twitter @megan\_massey.*



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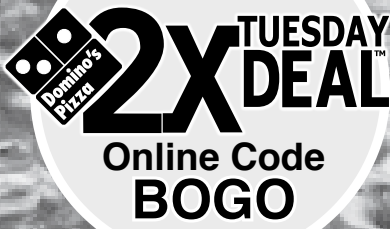
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SUMMERTIME IN THE GROVE



Scenes from the June 17 Summer Sunset Series featuring Maybelle’s Lovers, presented by the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council and Oxford Songwriter’s Association. The next of the series is set to begin on the Grove Stage Sunday at 7 p.m., featuring The Jazz Lite Orchestra.



LABANC

continued from page 1

Wallace College to work with housing and residential life and University of Akron in Student Union Operations. She works now as the Vice President for Student Affairs at Northern Illinois University. She said her job experiences helped her learn how different areas of student affairs function differently. She hoped her job experience would eventually position her to be considered for a job like Ole Miss because she said she loves the South, its climate and some family in the area. “I was truly drawn to the campus,” LaBanc said of her first visit to campus. “There seemed to be really wonderful people there, and I’m re-

ally looking forward to coming there and being a part of the family.” LaBanc said she hopes her energy and positive perspective is what will make her the right choice. She hopes she can connect with the students and represent them well. Associate Provost Dr. Noel E. Wilkin was the chair of the selection committee for the VC of student affairs and has high expectations for LaBanc. “I hope that her work will advance our mission and help make the University of Mississippi a better place for students, faculty and staff,” he said. LaBanc will take over on July 16. She is replacing former VC for Student affairs Larry Ridgeway. Ridgeway held the position in 2007 until his retirement earlier this year.

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# John Kiss chosen as new Dean of UM Graduate School

Newly selected Graduate School Dean John Kiss hopes to see an increase in the amount of interdisciplinary work, among other improvements.

BY KAYLEIGH SKINNER  
kaskinne@go.olemiss.edu

This summer, John Z. Kiss will transition from Oxford, Ohio, to Oxford, Miss., to begin work as the new dean of the University of Mississippi Graduate School. Kiss, formerly a professor and chair of botany at Miami University in Ohio, is replacing Maurice Eftink as dean.

Richard Gershon, professor and dean of the university's School of Law and head of the search committee for the new graduate dean said the search committee included a variety of faculty members, ranging from the School of Pharmacy to the UM Office of Research to fellow dean Ken Cyree from the School of Business.

"We did an extensive search that really lasted more than a year, and frankly he was in everybody's estimation the very best candidate," Gershon said. "There was strong consensus from the commit-

tee and all the people that met Dr. Kiss."

Kiss learned about the job opportunity through the Chronicle of Higher Education. Prior to his interview, he had never been to Ole Miss, but upon arrival he was pleased with Oxford and the campus.

As dean, Kiss will allocate resources to each graduate program and help to increase faculty, along with fundraising and other duties.

He said he is excited to oversee the multiple disciplines of each graduate program and hopes to broaden his perspective and have a positive effect on the university.

"I think my first priority is to encourage interdisciplinary work among graduate students," Kiss said.

"I'd like to, in combination with the other deans, work towards establishing some exciting new programs that will be exciting and appealing to new graduate students."



New Graduate School Dean John Kiss

PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Kiss went to graduate school at Rutgers University, where he received his doctoral degree in botany and plant physiology. He also serves on the Interna-

tional Committee on Space Research as the vice chairman and is well-known for his research on botany and space technology, primarily involving plants. His

wife Helen will work at the UM Office of Research and Sponsored Programs while their son Steven finishes school at Miami University.

"We're really excited to have him as a part of our community," Gershon said. "He's going to do wonderful things with the graduate program, and I look forward to having him as a dean colleague."

Eftink is stepping down so that he can better focus on his other responsibilities at the university. Since 1998, Eftink has been associate provost and dean of the graduate school. Before that, he taught chemistry and biochemistry. Eftink will continue to act as associate provost.

"He did a great job, but it was time for this to be done by one person being the graduate dean only, and not having someone try to do two very big roles," Gershon said.

Kiss will begin his four-year term Sept. 1.

## LUNCH,

continued from page 1

reimbursed. The 25-cent increase will put the difference within the obligatory range.

Part of the reason more money is being charged is so healthier options can be available.

"We need to have healthier food choices, and that doesn't come free," Harvey said. "That comes at a cost. Unfortunately it's the processed foods that are cheaper and more readily available."

Hunger-Free Kids Act states the goals of improving nutrition and reducing childhood obesity.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said in a White House Press release that childhood obesity and hunger are "twin issues" that can be attacked together through the schools.

"This bill, along with the resources and the powers provided under it, are going to allow USDA to be much more effective and aggressive in responding to obesity and hunger challenges for America's kids," Vilsack said in the release.

Harvey said schools are not to blame for overweight children.

"School lunches didn't cause the obesity problem," Harvey said. "We have them eight hours a day... But we

certainly need to do our part and increase the requirements and require healthy food choices in school."

The nutrition plan outlined by the Hunger-Free Kids Act gives sample meal changes, like replacing the side items of tater tots and one-quarter cup of canned pineapple with baked sweet potato fries, raw grape tomatoes and one-half cup of applesauce. This increase in fruits and vegetables is a key part of the plan.

A study by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found that half of all children between the ages 2 and 18 consume less than a serving of fruit per day.

Other nutritional imple-

mentations include increases in whole grains and low-fat milk.

Dr. Kathy Knight, chair of the Ole Miss nutrition department and a specialist in school-based nutrition intervention, spoke of the fine line between providing good nutrition while also providing food children will be willing to eat. She said although nutrition needs to increase in the schools, it will not be easy because the food that may be best for kids to eat is not always the food they have been conditioned to enjoy.

"Your whole job is not to teach these kids nutrition education, it's to feed (the kids), and if they're not eat-

ing what you're cooking then you're really not doing part of your job," Knight said.

Harvey agreed that it is very important to change the eating habits that are already in place.

"When you're serving pizza and french fries, that's not a good lunch," Harvey said. "Unfortunately, that's what kids have been conditioned to eat."

Knight said increased nutrition in schools is more than worth the rise in costs.

"It's the biggest bang for the buck in terms of child nutrition there is," Knight said. "You can't go to the store and purchase anything that will be as nutritious for that amount of money."

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"DEAR ASK A DOG"...

"WHO WANTS TO GO FOR A WALK?"

WE'LL HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOU WITH THAT ANSWER

By JIM DAVIS

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JIM DAVIS 6-21

THE FUSCO BROTHERS

YOUR HONOR, WHY DON'T WE TAKE A PAGE OUT OF THE JURY'S PLAYBOOK AND SEQUESTER OURSELVES IN A HOTEL TONIGHT?

By J.C. DUFFY

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DILBERT

TED, HAVE YOU SEEN THE TUPAC VIDEO WHERE HE PERFORMS AS A HOLOGRAM?

WE'VE DECIDED TO DO THE SAME THING WITH ALL OF OUR EMPLOYEES. WE'RE GOING TO MOVE YOUR DATA TO THE CLOUD.

TUPAC IS DEAD.

I THINK YOU MEAN ECONOMICAL.

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NON SEQUITUR

SOME-THING WRONG, BOB?

OH... I LOST MY SHIRT IN THE FACEBOOK IPO...

WHY'D YOU INVEST IN A COMPANY THAT DOESN'T PRODUCE ANYTHING?

SURE THEY DO, JOE

VACUOUS BRAIN-BLURBS AREN'T PRODUCTS, BOB...

WELL, IT SEEMS TO HAVE KEPT CONGRESS IN BUSINESS ALL THESE YEARS

By WILEY

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DOONESBURY

DOESN'T LEO LOOK ADORABLE?

UH-HUH...

OKAY, SHOW-TIME! READY?

UH-HUH...

POPPY? YOU OKAY?

OF COURSE, WHY?

YOU SEEM A LITTLE OUT OF IT.

I'M FINE. YOU GO PLAY.

By GARRY TRUDEAU

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9				1		
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		5	7		6	3
	8		9			

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

SUPER TOUGH

7	2	4	5	9	6	3	8	1
3	6	9	8	1	7	5	2	4
5	1	8	3	2	4	7	6	9
9	7	5	1	8	2	4	3	6
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20 Kerouac and Ginsberg

22 B-vitamin source

23 Finishes a skirt

24 Bon —, monsieur!

26 O'Donnell of TV

29 Yeti, for one

33 Force

34 Spoof (hyph.)

35 Sweet murmur

36 "I kid you not" comic

37 Filmdom's Sal

38 Children's counting-rhyme start

39 Annapolis grad

40 Jerks

41 Be of benefit

42 Rain clouds

44 Tango or waltz

45 Kinds

46 Harvest

48 Piece of cake

51 Spaghetti extra

55 Candy-striper

56 Cannon boom

58 Miff

59 Trickle slowly

60 Doctrine

61 Crude metals

62 Ecu and taupe

63 Silly

64 Shout at a deli

DOWN

1 Gentle person

2 Chills and fever

3 "Wool" on clay sheep

4 More crude

5 State as fact

6 Pig noises

7 Jacques' pals

8 Big rigs' radios

9 Weed

10 Up-to-date

11 Fringe —

12 Crashes into

13 Coagulate

21 Tibet explorer Alexandra

22 Shanghai coin

24 Angles, Saxons, and —

25 Melville opus

26 Reach maturity

27 Saudi neighbor

28 Charley horse

29 Attractive guys

30 Cruise setting

31 Type of column

32 Sherlock creator

34 Cone bearers

37 Raccoon face

38 Madonna role (2 wds.)

40 Winter festival

41 "Madam, I'm —"

43 Arm or thigh muscle

46 Poe's night visitor

47 Rust away

48 Obi

49 "Instead of" word

50 — fixe

51 Earnest request

52 Royal honorific

53 Mr. Trebek

54 Wren's abode

56 Biol. or astron.

57 Comic-strip prince

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

L	O	D	G	E	R	A	K	E	F	E	E	T
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Want more puzzles?  
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

Calling all Rebels!

Do You Know Where This Is?



How well do you know your university? The DM will be publishing close-ups of the university to test your knowledge. The answer to today's photo will appear with the June 28 photo challenge.



Prior photo challenge answer is Fulton Chapel located southwest of the Student Union and north of The Circle.



sports brief

OLE MISS SPORTS INFORMATION DESK

LATEST GAMEDAY SURVEY RESUTLS RELEASED

The Ole Miss Athletics Department has released the results of its 2011 football gameday survey and its improvement plans for the Rebels' upcoming 2012 season.

"We are committed to having the best game-day experience in college sports, and it's feedback like this that will only make it better," Athletics Director Ross Bjork said. "I am grateful we have this platform to hear the opinions of our fans and excited to see us follow up on these action items."

"I want to personally thank everyone that participated in the survey and attends our athletics events."

Surveys were sent out to season ticket holders on Nov. 22 and recipients had until Dec. 15 to respond. Of the 15,637 surveys sent, 3,484 completed it for a 22.3 percent response rate.

From last year's survey to the latest, nearly every sat-

isfaction score increased, with some gaining double-digit percentage growth.

"The gameday experience continues to play an important role in overall fan satisfaction, and surveys have been an excellent tool to effectively listen to our customers about all areas of that experience," said Michael Thompson, Senior Associate AD for Marketing and Communications. "The 2011 survey allowed us to not only measure the success of last year's '100-in-100' initiative but also address areas that need improvement or enhancement before the 2012 season."

The results provided information on customer satisfaction as well as the importance of specific elements of the fan experience.

Each section also included an open-ended comment box that could be used for additional thoughts and feedback.

CONCUSSION,

continued from page 1

they are not being taken care of today. Jones said the forming of this research group now was not a knee-jerk reaction.

"All of our conversations have focused on student-athlete safety," Jones said. "We've not had any conversations around the legal aspects of this. Our motivations are simply and purely around safety of student-athletes." While football will be the main focus of the study, all sports will be included in the research. Some of the selected sports many would not even think to include.

"That's kind of been the trigger for this by talking about football, but we talk less about things like cheerleading. Cheerleading is a pretty serious sport," Jones said.

"Head injuries are part of almost every sport including cheerleading, certainly soccer and baseball. Almost any sport though has some associated head injury with it, so we are going to look broadly in every sport the SEC participates in."

On the heels of the SEC putting together this research group, Jones said he feels oth-



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI BRAND SERVICES

Chancellor Dan Jones is heading up a research group to study head injuries in college sports.

ers will follow suit.

"The Big Ten has some work on concussions as well, and I suspect you'll see some other conferences pick up on this," he said.

This week the Big Ten announced a partnership with the Ivy League. They will begin a co-sponsored, cross-

institutional research collaboration to study head injuries in college sports, according to an article by NBC Sports.

The SEC research group will pull together information and report their findings in June of next year and may be allowed additional time if necessary.

**Flag Football Tournament**

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**Games Begin: 5:30 p.m.**

**SUMMER FUN IN JUNE**

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**Young Buffalo**

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Tickets \$8.00 Show at 9:45 pm

**Dry Rub** Mon. June 25 Show at 9:45 pm FREE

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# Pole vaulter Kendricks concludes record-breaking first season

Sam Kendricks of Oxford had a record-breaking season for Ole Miss track and field. He set both indoor and outdoor pole vaulting records in his first year.



Freshman pole vaulter Sam Kendricks

PHOTO COURTESY OLE MISS ATHLETICS (JOSHUA MCCOY)

BY TYLER BISCHOFF  
fbischo@olemiss.edu

Freshman pole vaulter Sam Kendricks dominated in Oxford as a senior in high school. He managed to go undefeated

at home in his last year at Oxford High School. His outdoor vault of 17-0 set the Mississippi high school record in 2011. “That was a dream season for me,” Kendricks said. Also, Kendricks was named

the 2010-11 Gatorade Athlete of the Year for Mississippi high school boys track and field. Kendricks was able to continue that success in his hometown his freshman year at Ole Miss. He broke the Ole Miss records for pole vault in the indoor and outdoor competitions. He finished second at the SEC Outdoor Championships and tied for tenth at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. He set a personal goal to vault 18 feet this past season. “It actually put me in the top part of the nation,” Kendricks said. “Which I was not expecting.” Kendricks has benefited from his strong ties to Ole Miss. Along with growing up in Oxford, both of his parents attended Ole Miss. His fa-

ther, Scott, ran cross country as a Rebel, while his mother, Marni, is currently an assistant dean of engineering. Kendricks also has a twin brother, Tom, who attends Ole Miss. Even his grandparents have lived next door to him for the past five years. “It’s always been a good atmosphere here at home,” Kendricks said. “I have a washer and dryer that’s always going to work.” Kendrick’s father is currently the track and field coach at Oxford High School, and Kendricks considers his father the greatest influence in his pole vaulting career. Despite only being under former Ole Miss head track and field coach Joe Walker for one year, Kendricks was still able to gain a great experience

in his time with him. “He sent me a hand written letter when I was in high school,” Kendricks said. “It’s all the small things that makes coach Walker a great coach to me.” Looking toward next season with Brian O’Neal as the new head coach, Kendricks wants to vault over 18 feet consistently, and clear 19 feet at least once. Kendricks finished in the top 10 in the nation as a freshman, but he is not satisfied with just that. His goal is to compete for the top spot in the nation. Kendricks doesn’t have any expectations of qualifying for the Olympic team this year, but in four years he hopes to represent America. “I want to do it so bad, it kind of hurts,” he said.

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